

(c) whether Government of Kerala had submitted any proposals in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal to open an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in that State. However, on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to Prime Minister (SAC-PM), Government has decided to set up three new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) during the 11th Five Year Plan in Bihar in the East, Rajasthan in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South.

Suicides by student at IITs

587. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of students have committed suicides or attempted suicides at various IITs in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that on November 6, 2006, a student from Kerala committed suicide at IIT, Kanpur;

(c) whether Government have noted the casual attitude of managements of IITs to suicide amongst students;

(d) what steps will be taken to hold the authorities accountable for each and every suicide on their campuses; and

(e) the steps proposed to check such suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Some students have committed suicides or attempted suicides at various IITs in the last three years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Events of suicides are taken very seriously. Following steps have been taken by the authorities of IITs to check cases of suicides:—

(i) Counseling which looks into all aspects viz. personal, financial, psychological and emotional problems of the students;

- (ii) Holding workshops/seminars to cope with the challenges;
- (iii) Creation of help lines;
- (iv) Modifications of the examination scheme so that students should not feel over-stressed during examinations;
- (v) Monitoring of performance of students during semester;
- (vi) Setting up of mechanisms so that the families are well informed about the performance of students; and
- (vii) Conducting of seminars on breathing exercises, yoga and meditation, etc.

Special education zones

588. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are setting up special education zones, and watch India's knowledge sharpen;
- (b) if so, the modalities worked out so far; and
- (c) the role of States and private institutions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Retirement age of teachers

589. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- ~~(a)~~ whether it is a fact that Government have referred the proposal of retirement age of teacher to a Group of Ministers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any discussion had been held by GoM in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?